

# California Electric and Magnetic Fields Program N E W S L E T T E R

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES UPDATE

September/October 2000

## **Program Contractor Detlof von Winterfeldt to be Awarded Prestigious Ramsey Medal**

Detlof von Winterfeldt, lead researcher on the California EMF Program's Power Grid/Land Use Policy Analysis, will be awarded this year's Frank P. Ramsey Medal. This highest award of the Decision Analysis Society (part of the Institute for Operations Research and Management Science, or INFORMS) recognizes Dr. von Winterfeldt's lifetime contributions to the field of decision analysis. According to the INFORMS Web site, this medal is awarded to people who have furthered decision analysis theory and its practical applications to real decisions. The California EMF Program staff congratulates Dr. von Winterfeldt on this recognition of his many accomplishments.

## **Telephone Response to be Phased Out During Spring 2001**

When the California EMF Program and its funding from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) come to an end next year, the Department of Health Services (DHS) will no longer be able to field the many questions we receive each week on EMF-related matters. We estimate that we spend 10 to 20 person-hours in a typical week fielding these questions. After discussions with the staff at the CPUC, we have decided to phase out telephone responses following the expected flurry of calls generated by the distribution of this year's EMF utility bill inserts over the next several months. We will then take our telephone number off the web site and our other materials. On the basis of our experience next spring and summer, we will assess the impact of not having this resource available before the program ends. This will also help enable us to complete various fact sheets, non-technical summaries of some of our research projects, and the risk evaluation and policy integration documents, which are currently progressing more slowly because of the time spent on telephone response.

### **Milestones**

- Power Grid and Land Use Policy Project revised report sent to peer reviewers in mid-September
- Occupational Exposure Study peer review completed
- Kaiser spontaneous abortion study submitted to the *New England Journal of Medicine*
- DHS spontaneous abortion case-control study submitted to the journal *Epidemiology*

## Research Unit Progress

**Power Grid/Land Use Policy Analysis:** The revised version of the Power Grid Policy Project report and software model were sent to the peer reviewers and interested Science Advisory Panel members in mid-September. On September 27, 2000, the program coordinated a conference call in which the reviewers asked questions for clarification. The current project draft was also provided to staff at the Independent Systems Operator and the CPUC, who are reviewing and commenting on the project's cost figures and technical feasibility. All reviewers' comments are due by October 27, 2000. Project contractor Detlof von Winterfeldt will then make the final revisions.

**School Policy Analysis:** School Policy Project contractor Keith Florig sent a third draft of the executive summary to the program for review on October 5, 2000. The executive summary now stands on its own as a good summary of the overall document. Dr. Florig is finalizing a new draft of the complete project report, and has responded to the stakeholders' comments and revised his analysis in accordance with these comments and responses. This project will be sent to the peer reviewers in the near future.

**Epidemiology Workshop:** The special issue of the journal *Bioelectromagnetics* containing this workshop's proceedings is expected to be published in December of this year.

**Prospective Miscarriage Study:** De-Kun Li has submitted a manuscript to the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

**Occupational Exposure Study:** The peer reviewers of this project have completed their reviews, and the final report is being prepared.

**Risk Evaluation:** The second draft is complete and is currently being proofread and edited before being submitted to the SAP for review.

## Related State Activities

**DHS Case-Control Study:** Gerri Lee has submitted a manuscript of the DHS case-control study of EMF and spontaneous abortion to the journal *Epidemiology*.

## Education and Technical Assistance Unit Progress

### Fact Sheets

**School Interpretation of Measurements:** The Health Education Assistant, Kim Merin, has completed the first draft of this fact sheet, which is intended to help people interpret EMF measurements taken on school campuses. It is now being passed around EMF Program staff for comments.

**Frequently Asked Questions about EMF in Residences:** The Health Educator, Jessica Hecht, has completed a second draft of the Frequently Asked Questions About EMF in Residences fact sheet. The new draft is currently undergoing internal review. This fact sheet is intended to answer many of the questions the Education Unit gets from members of the public about EMF from various sources in homes and apartments. We hope that it will assist members of the public when program staff are no longer available to answer individual questions.

**Supplemental Information Page:** The Education Unit has produced a draft of a short supplemental information page to accompany many of our fact sheets. This page contains information about the California EMF Program and a glossary of terms commonly used in our EMF fact sheets. The current draft of this sheet is now undergoing internal review.

**Long Fact Sheet:** The final formatting of the revised long fact sheet has been delayed by work on the Risk Evaluation draft, but was recently completed. This fact sheet, which describes electric and magnetic fields and the EMF/health debate using a moderate level of technical detail, will be posted on our Web site in the very near future.

## **Research Project Non-Technical Summaries**

**Wiring Video Introductory Sheet:** This document describes the video made on correcting improper wiring in schools. It has been completed and will soon be sent to the DHS leadership for review and approval.

### **Summary of the Risk Evaluation**

**Guidelines:** The Health Education Assistant has begun writing the non-technical summary of the Risk Evaluation Guidelines. This summary will be a brief document that explains the Guidelines for those who are interested in understanding the project, but are unable to read the entire document.

### **Summary of the School Exposure**

**Assessment:** The Health Education Assistant has also begun writing the non-technical summary of the School Exposure Assessment Survey. Similar to the Risk Evaluation Guidelines Summary, this document will be a brief summary of the School Exposure Assessment. It is intended to be useful to those

who want to know the results of the School Exposure Assessment without having to read through the entire document.

## **Other Education and Technical Assistance Unit Activities**

**Response to Public Questions:** As usual, the California EMF Program continues to respond to questions about EMF from members of the public.

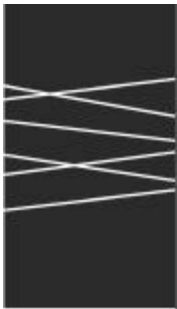
**Support of the Research Unit:** The Education Unit staff continues to support the Research Unit by reviewing and commenting on the Risk Evaluation draft and other projects.

## EMF PROGRAM STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

|                   |          |                        |               |          |                     |
|-------------------|----------|------------------------|---------------|----------|---------------------|
| Raymond Neutra    | 622-4905 | rneutra@dhs.ca.gov     | Jessica Hecht | 622-4430 | jhecht@dhs.ca.gov   |
| Alvin Leonard     | 622-4432 | alvinleonard@yahoo.com | Kim Merin     | 622-4435 | kmerin@dhs.ca.gov   |
| Vincent Del Pizzo | 622-4418 | delpizzo@yahoo.com     | Jack Collins  | 622-4431 | jcollins@dhs.ca.gov |
| Geraldine Lee     | 622-5091 | gerrilee17@yahoo.com   | Myra Alcaide  | 622-4434 | malcaid1@dhs.ca.gov |

main phone (510) 622-4500, fax (510) 622-4505

---



### California Electric and Magnetic Fields Program

A project of the California Department of Health Services and the Public Health Institute  
Elihu Harris State Office Building  
1515 Clay St., 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

watch for our Web site at <http://www.dnai.com/~emf/>